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December 10, 2002

Ms. Catherine Hibbard
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, California 95825

Subject: California Red-Legged Frog Survey Report – Placer County DeWitt Center, Auburn, California

Dear Ms. Hibbard:

The purpose of this letter report is to present the results of protocol surveys for California red-legged frogs (*Rana aurora draytonii*) conducted on the Placer County DeWitt Center property. As part of the Service's authorization of our red-legged frog survey request for the Atwood Ranch Project (Service Identification Number 1-1-03-I-1348), the Service requested that the applicant, Reynen & Bardis, attempt to conduct red-legged frog surveys on any properties with potential frog habitat within a one-mile radius of the Atwood project. As a result, we contacted all property owners within a mile and requested authorization to evaluate their properties for potential frog habitat, followed by frog surveys, if appropriate habitat was found. Only Placer County responded positively to this request.

From August 4 through August 26, 2003, we conducted protocol-level California red-legged frog surveys on the 181-acre Placer County DeWitt Center property, located south of Bell Road, north of Atwood Road, and west of Highway 49, immediately across Atwood Road (north) from the Atwood Ranch project. Figure 1 is a Vicinity Map showing the location of the DeWitt Center property.

The site consists of gently rolling oak woodland and urban development. (Approximately 80 percent of the 181-acre site has been developed.) Blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) and interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*) are the dominant trees with some foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) occurring at scattered locations. The woodland understory consists of either non-native annual grassland or woody shrub habitat. Typical grasses include soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), oats (*Avena* sp.), and Italian ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*). These non-native grasslands also support a number of native bulbs and other broad-leaved species. Woody understory consists of shrubs such as coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), buckbrush (*Ceanothus* sp.), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and coffee berry (*Rhamnus tomentella*). These shrubs also occur in open areas.

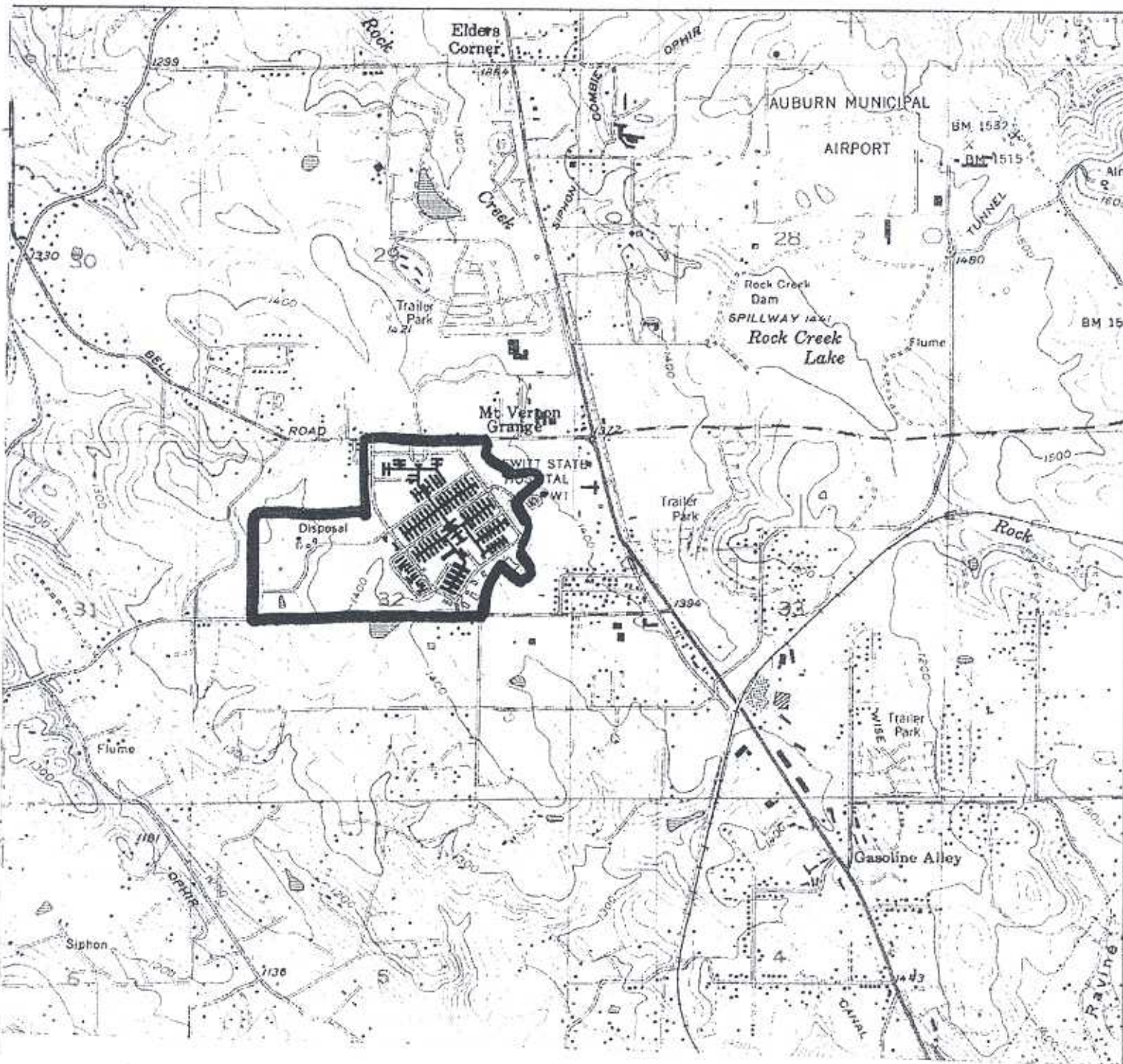


Figure 1. Study Area and Vicinity
DeWitt Center
 Placer County, California
 Auburn USGS 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle, scale 1:24,000

Concrete, asphalt, and other waste material have been deposited on portions of the site. In addition, some areas have been graded or otherwise disturbed. At these locations the flora is best described as ruderal, consisting of species adapted to high levels of disturbance. Typical ruderal species include Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*), milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), yellow start thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), and horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*).

Several areas on the site support riparian or wetland flora. Figure 2 is the wetland delineation map of the DeWitt Center, prepared by North Fork Associates, on behalf of Placer County Department of Facility Services. This delineation map was used as a basis for evaluating potential frog habitat. The delineation identifies a total of 4.95 waters of the United States, including 2.57 acres of waters and 2.38 acres of wetlands. These waters and wetlands are broken out by habitat type in the table below:

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES	
<i>Waters</i>	<i>Acreage</i>
Open Water	2.55
Ephemeral Drainage	0.02
<i>Subtotal waters</i>	<i>2.57</i>
<i>Wetlands</i>	
Riparian Wetland	1.89
Wetland Swale	0.30
Seasonal Wetland	0.03
Detention Basin	0.16
<i>Subtotal wetlands</i>	<i>2.38</i>
Total Acreage	4.95

Typical wetland species include cattails (*Typha* sp.), various rush and sedge species (*Juncus* sp. and *Carex* sp., respectively) and smartweed (*Polygonum* sp.) with willow (*Salix* sp.) and Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus procerus*) forming thickets at the edges of the ponds.

Protocol red-legged frog surveys were conducted in accordance with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's "Dissemination of Interim Guidance on Site Assessment and Field Surveys for California Red-Legged Frogs" dated April 4, 1997. Survey habitat included all wetlands and waters present on the site, but a majority of the survey effort was focused on those areas supporting surface ponding conditions. At the time of the field surveys, the habitats with surface ponding consisted of OW-1, OW-2, DB-1, WS-5, WS-6, RW-4, and Kemper Canal. The remainder of the wetland areas as well as the ephemeral drainage, were dry. Kemper Canal was surveyed; although, flow is rapid and cold and the banks of the canal are sprayed with herbicide on a regular basis to control all vegetation growth. The effort included day surveys conducted on August 4, 11 and 26 and night surveys conducted on August 5, 12 and 27. Night surveys were generally implemented between 1 and 2 hours following sunset. Day surveys were implemented mornings and early afternoons.

Survey methodology involved traversing the perimeter and shallow emergent zones of the ponds, drainage and wetland areas and visually scanning for frog activity. The large pond was also surveyed by boat. The Survey methodology also included periods of motionless observation and



Figure 2. Wetland Delineation Map

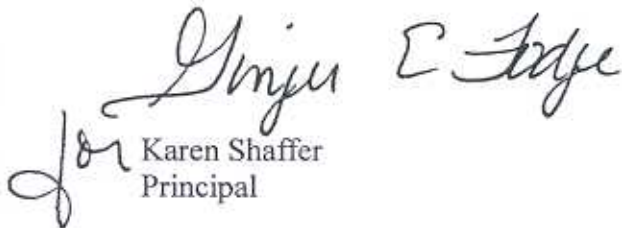
and listening for frog vocalizations. Hand-held flashlights were utilized during night surveys, and binoculars were used during day surveys to assist in the search process.

Based on our findings, we did not observe any red-legged frogs in the survey area, nor did we observe any indication that they may be active in the area. We did observe numerous large, adult bullfrogs along the banks and shallow vegetated zones of OW-1, and within OW-2 during all survey sessions. We observed one juvenile bullfrog within a ponded area of RW-4 at the location of an abandoned weir during the first day and first night surveys. No frogs were identified at any other wetland locations. Data forms documenting survey times, weather conditions, and survey findings are provided in Attachment A.

Based on our survey findings and based on the absence of recent documented historical red-legged frog sightings within five miles of the surveyed area, it is highly unlikely that red-legged frogs currently utilize the survey area or that they would have a reasonable potential of occurring in the survey area.

If you have any questions concerning this survey, please call me at 916-569-1830.

Sincerely,

for Karen Shaffer
Principal

Attachment

cc (with attachment):

Mike Winn
Reynen & Bardis
9848 Business Park Drive, Suite H
Sacramento, California 95827

Dennis Salter
Placer County
Department of Facility Services
11476 C Avenue
Auburn, California 95603

ATTACHMENT A

SURVEY DATA FORMS

RED-LEGGED FROG SURVEY
FIELD DATA FORM
First Day Survey

Project: DeWitt Center
Date: 08-04-03
Investigator(s): K Shaffer

Start Time: 11:00 a.m.
End Time: 1:40 p.m.

Air Temperature: 30° C
Wind Speed: Generally calm, with 0-5 m.p.h. breeze
General Weather Conditions: Clear, sunny, warm.
Water Temperature: See below under each area surveyed.

Field Survey Methods:

Conducted day survey of OW-1, RW-1, RW-2, RW-3, RW-4, RW-5, WS-1, WS-2, WS-5, WS-6, SW-1, DB-1, DB-2 and ED-1. OW-2, and a portion of WS-2 were not accessible. (See delineation map for location of these features.)

Survey methods involved traversing the perimeter and shallow zones of the pond, drainage and wetland areas and visually scanning for frog activity. The survey methodology also included periods of motionless observation and listening for frog vocalizations. Binoculars were used to assist in the search and identification process. OW-1 was also surveyed from the water using a small rowboat.

The small, southern pond (OW-2) was not accessible due to the heavy thicket of blackberries. Heard vocalizations of several bullfrogs while standing near pond. (A small path was cleared for access to conduct surveys during August 11, 12, 26 and 27 surveys (see results on subsequent data sheets).

The northern most and largest portion of WS-2 (Upper WS-2) abuts the jail and is located behind a secure fence. Upper WS-2 is a wetland with apparently consisting of a solid stand of cattails. Unable to determine if there was standing water. RW-3, immediately downslope, was saturated, but not ponded. WS-1, upslope, did not have standing water but had areas of saturated soils.

Field Notes and Comments/Amphibians Observed:

OW-1: Large pond. Water temperature 25° C. Depth of ponding is 4 to 6 feet at deepest. Observed pond turtles, fish (bass) and ducks. One unidentified splash. No visual observations or auditory indication of frogs.

RW-1: Surrounds OW-1. RW-1 does not have standing water or saturated soils except at interface with pond. No amphibians observed or heard.

RW-2: Surrounds OW-2. RW-2 does not have standing water or saturated soils except at interface with pond. No amphibians observed or heard.

RW-3: Saturated, not ponded. No amphibians observed or heard.

RW-4: Very shallow running water (approximately 1 inch deep). Fed by upslope culvert. Ponded area at location of abandoned weir with depths of approximately 1 foot. Water temperature 23° C at ponded area. One juvenile bullfrog, approximately 1.5 inch body length, was observed at the ponded area.

RW-5: Does not have standing water or saturated soils. No amphibians observed or heard.

WS-1: No standing water. Saturated soils in some locations. Homogenous stand of cattails. No amphibians observed or heard.

WS-2: As noted above, Upper WS-2 was inaccessible. Middle WS-2 and Lower WS-2 are ditches that did not have ponded water. Soils were saturated. No amphibians observed or heard.

WS-5: No standing water. Soils were saturated. No amphibians observed or heard.

WS-6: Shallow running water (approximately 6 inches). Water temperature 23°C. No amphibians observed or heard. Fed from culvert upslope.

SW-1: No standing water or saturated soils. No amphibians observed or heard.

DB-1: Shallow ponding (approximately 4 inches depth). Water temperature 26°C. No amphibians observed or heard.

DB-2: No standing water or saturated soils. No amphibians observed or heard.

ED-1: No standing water or saturated soils. No amphibians observed or heard.

Kemper Canal: Fast flowing water, approximately 2 feet deep. Water temperature 16°C. No amphibians observed or heard.

**RED-LEGGED FROG SURVEY
FIELD DATA FORM
First Night Survey**

Project: DeWitt Center

Date: 08-05-03

Investigator(s): K Shaffer, G Fodge

Start Time: 9:15 p.m.

End Time: 10:45 p.m.

Air Temperature: 26°C

Wind Speed: Calm.

General Weather Conditions: Clear, calm, warm.

Water Temperature: See below under each area surveyed.

Field Survey Methods:

Conducted night survey of areas found to be ponded or have flowing water during Day Survey on August 4, 2003.

Survey methods involved traversing the perimeter and shallow zones of the pond and wetland areas and visually scanning for frog activity. The survey methodology also included periods of motionless observation and listening for frog vocalizations. Hand-held flashlights were used. OW-1 was also surveyed from the water using a small rowboat.

Field Notes and Comments/Amphibians Observed:

OW-1: Large pond. Water temperature 25° C. Depth of ponding is 4 to 6 feet at deepest. Observed ducks. Observed five large, adult bullfrogs at edges of pond. Identified six additional bullfrogs through vocalizations.

RW-4: Very shallow running water (approximately 1 inch deep). Fed by upslope culvert. Ponded area at location of abandoned weir with depths of approximately 1 foot. Water temperature 20°C at ponded area. Heard one unidentified splash.

WS-6: Shallow running water (approximately 6 inches). Water temperature 20°C. No amphibians observed or heard. Fed from culvert upslope.

DB-1: Shallow ponding (approximately 4 inches depth). Water temperature 26°C. No amphibians observed or heard.

Kemper Canal: Fast flowing water, approximately 2 feet deep. Water temperature 15°C. Parking lot and street adjacent to canal were very well lit at night. No amphibians observed or heard.

RED-LEGGED FROG SURVEY
FIELD DATA FORM
Second Day Survey
First Day Survey for OW-2

Project: DeWitt Center

Date: 08-11-03

Investigator(s): K Shaffer

Start Time: 10:00 a.m.

End Time: 11:55 a.m.

Air Temperature: 30°C

Wind Speed: Gentle breeze. ≤ 5 mph.

General Weather Conditions: Clear, sunny, warm.

Water Temperature: See below under each area surveyed.

Field Survey Methods:

Conducted second day survey of areas found to be ponded or have flowing water during first day survey on August 4, 2003. Also conducted first day survey on OW-2.

Survey methods involved traversing the perimeter and shallow zones of the ponds and wetland areas and visually scanning for frog activity. The survey methodology also included periods of motionless observation and listening for frog vocalizations. Binoculars were used. OW-1 was also surveyed from the water using a small rowboat.

Field Notes and Comments/Amphibians Observed:

OW-1: Large pond. Water temperature 25° C. Depth of ponding is 4 to 6 feet at deepest. Observed ducks, fish and a deer. Identified six bullfrogs through vocalizations.

OW-2: Small pond, almost entirely covered with aquatic vegetation (*Polygonum*). Depth approximately 2 to 3 feet at center. Water temperature 19°C. Small open water areas in center of pond. Observed ten large, adult bullfrogs. Identified an additional fourteen bullfrogs from vocalization and/or distress calls concurrent with escape into deeper water.

RW-4: Very shallow running water (approximately 1 inch deep). Fed by upslope culvert. Ponded area at location of abandoned weir with depths of approximately 1 foot. Water temperature 22°C at ponded area. No amphibians observed or heard.

WS-6: Shallow running water (approximately 6 inches). Water temperature 22°C. No amphibians observed or heard. Fed from culvert upslope.

DB-1: Shallow ponding (approximately 4 inches depth). Water temperature 24°C. No amphibians observed or heard.

Kemper Canal: Fast flowing water, approximately 2 feet deep. Water temperature 15°C.
No amphibians observed or heard.

RED-LEGGED FROG SURVEY
FIELD DATA FORM
Second Night Survey
First Night Survey for OW-2

Project: DeWitt Center

Date: 08-12-03

Investigator(s): K Shaffer

Start Time: 9:15 p.m.

End Time: 11:15 p.m.

Air Temperature: 28°C

Wind Speed: Calm.

General Weather Conditions: Clear, calm, warm.

Water Temperature: See below under each area surveyed.

Field Survey Methods:

Conducted second night survey of areas found to be ponded or have flowing water during first day survey on August 4, 2003. Also conducted first night survey on OW-2.

Survey methods involved traversing the perimeter and shallow zones of the ponds and wetland areas and visually scanning for frog activity. The survey methodology also included periods of motionless observation and listening for frog vocalizations. Hand-held flashlights were used. OW-1 was also surveyed from the water using a small rowboat.

Field Notes and Comments/Amphibians Observed:

OW-1: Large pond. Water temperature 25° C. Depth of ponding is 4 to 6 feet at deepest. Identified twelve large, adult bullfrogs visually. Identified an additional six through vocalizations and/or distress calls concurrent with escape into deeper water. .

OW-2: Small pond, almost entirely covered with aquatic vegetation (*Polygonum*). Depth approximately 2 to 3 feet at center. Water temperature 20°C. Small open water areas in center of pond. Observed nineteen large, adult bullfrogs

RW-4: Very shallow running water (approximately 1 inch deep). Fed by upslope culvert. Ponded area at location of abandoned weir with depths of approximately 1 foot. Water temperature 19°C at ponded area. No amphibians observed or heard.

WS-6: Shallow running water (approximately 6 inches). Water temperature 19°C. No amphibians observed or heard. Fed from culvert upslope.

DB-1: Shallow ponding (approximately 4 inches depth). Water temperature 19°C. No amphibians observed or heard.

Kemper Canal: Fast flowing water, approximately 2 feet deep. Water temperature 15°C. No amphibians observed or heard. Canal well lit by adjacent parking lot and street lights.

RED-LEGGED FROG SURVEY
FIELD DATA FORM
Second Day Survey for OW-2

Project: DeWitt Center
Date: 08-26-03
Investigator(s): K Shaffer

Start Time: 9:15 a.m.
End Time: 9:35 a.m.

Air Temperature: 28°C
Wind Speed: Approximately 5 mph.
General Weather Conditions: Warm, overcast, gentle breeze.
Water Temperature: See below.

Field Survey Methods:

Conducted second day survey of OW-2.

Survey methods involved traversing the perimeter and shallow zones of the pond and visually scanning for frog activity. The survey methodology also included periods of motionless observation and listening for frog vocalizations. Binoculars were used.

Field Notes and Comments/Amphibians Observed:

OW-2: Small pond, almost entirely covered with aquatic vegetation (*Polygonum*). Depth approximately 2 to 3 feet at center. Water temperature 20°C. Small open water areas in center of pond. Observed two large, adult bullfrogs. Identified an additional three bullfrogs from distress calls concurrent with escape into deeper water.

**RED-LEGGED FROG SURVEY
FIELD DATA FORM
Second Night Survey for OW-2**

Project: DeWitt Center

Date: 08-27-03

Investigator(s): K Shaffer

Start Time: 9:30 p.m.

End Time: 9:50 p.m.

Air Temperature: 24°C

Wind Speed: Calm.

General Weather Conditions: Calm, warm evening.

Water Temperature: See below.

Field Survey Methods:

Conducted second night survey of OW-2.

Survey methods involved traversing the perimeter and shallow zones of the pond and visually scanning for frog activity. The survey methodology also included periods of motionless observation and listening for frog vocalizations. Hand-held flashlights were used.

Field Notes and Comments/Amphibians Observed:

OW-2: Small pond, almost entirely covered with aquatic vegetation (*Polygonum*). Depth approximately 2 to 3 feet at center. Water temperature 20°C. Small open water areas in center of pond. Observed seventeen large, adult bullfrogs. Identified an additional five bullfrogs from vocalizations and/or distress calls concurrent with escape into deeper water.